

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 19-29 and 34-63 are pending. Claims 1-17 and 19-29 stand rejected. Claims 1-17, 19-25 and 29 have been amended and new claims 34-63 have been added. In view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 16, 17 and 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.K. Patent Application No. GB 2352512 to Ciesla et al. ("Ciesla"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed towards an imaging system for examining an object, the system including a probe array and a scanning mechanism. The probe array includes "at least one emitter of THz radiation and a plurality of photoconductive detectors for detecting radiation. Radiation is emitted by the at least one emitter and directed to the object and reflected back from the object to at least two of the plurality of detectors. The scanning mechanism rotates or moves the probe array such that emitted radiation is scanned across the object and reflected back to the at least two of the plurality of detectors. As explained below, Ciesla fails to teach each limitation of claim 1.

Ciesla relates to a probe assembly for examining a sample. Ciesla, Abstract. The Ciesla probe assembly includes an emitter and a plurality of detectors. Ciesla, fig. 11. However, Ciesla is silent regarding a scanning mechanism "configured to rotate or move said probe array such that emitted radiation is scanned across the object, and reflected back to said at least two of the plurality of detectors." Ciesla fails to disclose any type of mechanism that would move either the probe array or the object so as to allow a scanning of the object. Therefore, for at least this reason, Ciesla fails to render claim 1 unpatentable.

Additionally, claim 1 recites that during scanning, radiation is detected by at least two of a plurality of detectors. Because Ciesla does not disclose a scanning mechanism, Ciesla also cannot disclose the detection of reflected radiation during scanning by at least two detectors. By providing that radiation reflected back from an object is directed to each of at least two of a plurality of

detectors in a system in which a probe is scanned relative to a sample, the claimed invention ensures that image acquisition time is reduced and that data can be gathered more rapidly than in the case of such a scanning system in which a single detector is used for detecting reflected radiation.

Therefore, for this additional reason, claim 1 is allowable over Ciesla.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 16, 17 and 19-27 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Claims 10-13, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ciesla. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 10-13, 28 and 29 depend from claim 1. As explained above, claim 1 is allowable over Ciesla. Therefore, claims 10-13, 28 and 29 are also allowable over Ciesla for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Claims 3, 6, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ciesla in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0178584 to Arnone et al. (“Arnone”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 6, 14 and 15 depend from claim 1. As explained above, claim 1 is allowable over Ciesla for at least the reason that Ciesla fails to teach that a scanning mechanism “configured to rotate or move said probe array such that emitted radiation is scanned across the object, and reflected back to said at least two of the plurality of detectors.” Arnone also fails to remedy this inadequacy of Ciesla.

Arnone is cited in the Office Action as teaching a THz imaging device with photoconductive emitter and detectors and raster scanning. Office Action, pp. 5-6. However, Arnone only teaches a system that uses a single detector. Arnone fails to describe a probe array

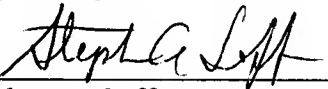
with a plurality of detectors that is scanned across an object. Therefore, neither Ciesla nor Arnone, individually or combined, teach each limitation of claim 1 (and hence, claims 3, 6, 14 and 15).

For at least these reasons, claims 3, 6, 14 and 15 are allowable over the cited combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If there are any additional charges in connection with this filing or any subsequent filings (including but not limited to issue fees), the Examiner is respectfully requested and authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1073 therefor under Order No. M0025.0357/P357.

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